



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
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November 14, 2001

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members
FROM: Craig McLaughlin, Policy Manager
RE: EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPACITY RESOLUTION

Background and Summary

As noted in the memo regarding the emergency response capacity report, the Washington State Board of Health heard briefings on October 9 and 10, 2001 from national experts, state and local public health officials, and hospital personnel about state and local capacity for responding to a health event such as a bioterrorism attack. The Board also reviewed briefing materials and heard from dozens of attendees at the October 8–10 Washington State Joint Conference on Health.

It was the sense of the Board members that the global, national, state, and local public health and health care infrastructure is underprepared to respond to a major health disaster such as a bioterrorism attack. Board members agreed they would continue the discussion. Chair Linda Lake directed staff to develop a work product that would provide a focus for the Board's continued work. She instructed staff to make the work product as clearly reflective of the Board's sense of urgency and concern as possible, inviting Board members to temper the work product as they might find necessary.

Staff members have continued to consult with Board members in the intervening weeks. The attached draft resolution, along with the companion report *Response Capacity During A Health Emergency—A Review of Selected Issues*, represents their best efforts to reflect the comments of the Board and to comply with the directions from the chair.

Recommended Board Motions

The Board may wish to consider, amend, and approve the following motion:

The Board adopts the draft resolution {as amended} submitted on November 14, 2001.